

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

28 October 1977

Daniel Steiner, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Dan:

This is in response to your letter of 11 October 1977 to this Agency relating to our ongoing discussions concerning CIA relationships with staff and faculty members of U.S. academic institutions. In your letter, you have asked whether or not you are correct in concluding that "CIA feels it is appropriate to use, on a compensated or uncompensated basis, faculty members and administrators for operational purposes, including the gathering of intelligence as requested by the CIA, and as covert recruiters on campus...."

Let me respond to your letter in the following manner. First, as the Director of Central Intelligence indicated to President Bok in his 13 June 1977 letter regarding the Harvard guidelines, it is against CIA policy to seek or obtain the services of American staff and faculty members of U.S. academic institutions on an unwitting basis. At the same time, we firmly believe that we have neither the right nor the duty to unilaterally deny any citizen, regardless of profession, the opportunity to furnish information or services which may be useful to his or her Government. Therefore, we cannot impose a flat prohibition on all relationships with staff and faculty members of U.S. academic institutions for a foreign intelligence collection purpose.

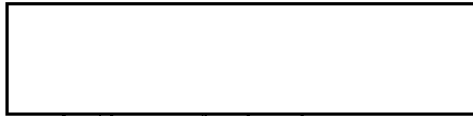
As I think is evident from our discussions and the time which we have devoted in general to this matter, this Agency is mindful of the serious and complex issues of a policy nature which are implicit in any and all relationships between CIA and the academic world. Because of our recognition of the delicate balance which must be maintained between the intellectual independence of academe on the one hand and the needs of the nation and rights of individual academics on the other, you may be assured that we will engage the confidential services of individual staff and faculty members in furtherance of U.S. intelligence objectives only on those occasions when it



has been determined by responsible officials that the individual in question is in a position to furnish especially valuable information or assistance to his or her country.

The Agency fully shares Harvard University's view that the issues involved in this matter are of fundamental importance. Reasonable people may honestly disagree on whether an individual staff or faculty member's assistance to CIA is advisable or proper, but it seems to us that the final decision should ultimately be left to the individual academic to make.

Sincerely,



Anthony A. Lapham  
General Counsel

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